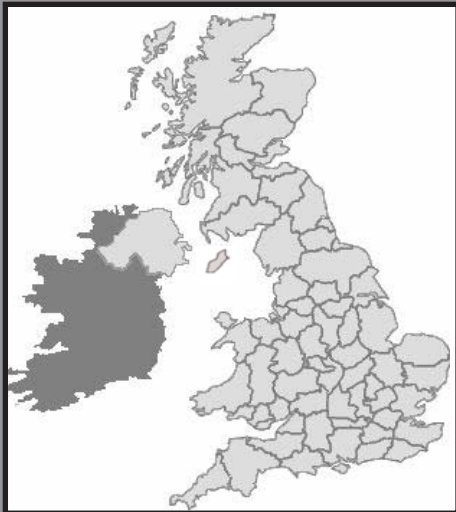


Soroptimist International in the UK

There are over 260 clubs right across the UK.
From Easter Ross in the north of Scotland,
to the islands of Jersey and Guernsey in the south.
And from Enniskillen, in Northern Ireland,
to Great Yarmouth in the east.



All are working in a variety of ways to
combat Violence Against Women

**Soroptimist International is a
worldwide organisation for women in
management and professions, working
through service projects to advance
human rights and the status of women.**

UK

**Programme
Action
Committee**

How to contact us

To find out more about our work across the country
visit the UKPAC website:

www.soroptimist-ukpac.org

or email us at info@soroptimist-ukpac.org.

Information on our Federation of 30 countries
can be found on its website:

<http://soroptimist-gbi.co.uk>

or for information about the work of
Soroptimists around the world, visit the
international website at:

www.soroptimistinternational.org

Soroptimist International

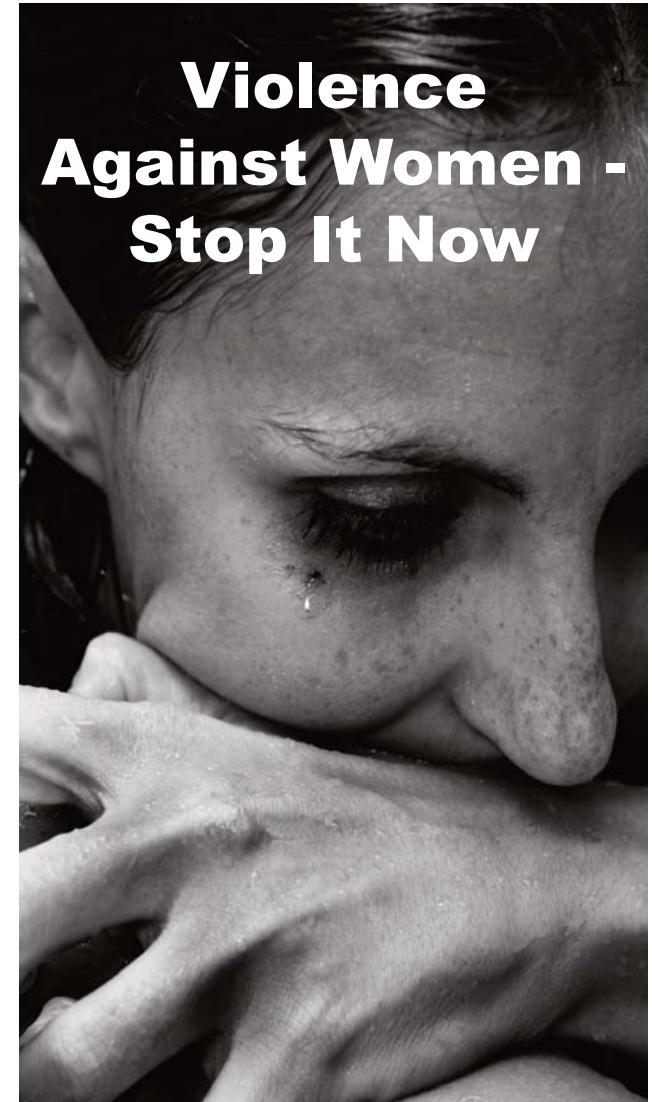


**a global voice
for women**

For information at local level please contact:

Soroptimist International UK Committee

Violence Against Women - Stop It Now



UK

**Programme
Action
Committee**

UKPAC's Flagship Project *Violence Against Women - Stop it Now* has five areas of concern:

Trafficking and the Sex Trade

Every year, across the world, over one million children are trafficked. (UNICEF) In 2009, here in the UK, police rescued 150 women and 13 children identified for sex trafficking. (UK Pentameter 2) Internationally, between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year; 80% of them are women and girls. (US Dept of State Trafficking in Persons Report)

Forced Marriages and 'honour' killings

Although 'honour' killings happen mostly in Muslim countries, even though Islam does not condone honour-related crime, the Metropolitan Police believe that there are at least 12 cases of 'honour' killings taking place in the UK each year.

When the Home Office set up its Forced Marriage Unit in 2008 it received 5,000 calls and rescued 400 victims in the first six months. In the most recent figures available, the Metropolitan Police reported a huge increase in cases in London: 211 incidents between April and October 2009.

FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)

There are over 100,000 women in the UK who have already suffered FGM and a further 6,500 are estimated to be at risk, annually. ('A Statistical Study to Estimate the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation, published by FORWARD)

Since 1985 it has been illegal in this country to practise FGM and in 2003 the law was extended to include taking girls out of the country to have FGM performed. Not one single prosecution has been brought since these laws came into force.

Elder Abuse

Hundreds of thousands of elderly people are at risk of neglect, physical, psychological, financial or sexual abuse in the UK every year. (Age UK)

Domestic Violence and Abuse

One in four women in the UK will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime. Two women a week are killed by a current or former male partner. (Women's Aid)

What UK Soroptimists are doing

In the summer of 2010 the UK Programme Action Committee conducted a survey of the work being undertaken by all clubs in the country. The results of this have shown that:



Over 75% of the clubs in the UK actively support their local Women's Aid Refuge.



Over half of all clubs in the UK have lobbied or petitioned on the issue of violence against women in the past year.



Over 75 Contact Centres and 75 Domestic Violence Forums are supported, nationally.



More than 400 events, aimed at raising awareness of the problems of violence against women, have been organised by Soroptimists, across the nation, in the past year.



Some clubs have taken one aspect of Violence Against Women and run with it, nationally. Just three examples are the Yeovil club's 'Domestic Abuse' bookmarks, Tenby's DVDs, raising awareness of FGM and Poole's Purple Teardrop anti-trafficking campaign. All three initiatives have been circulated across the nation.

